

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DAVID MAO, DEPUTY LIBRARIAN
OF CONGRESS

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Deputy Librarian of Congress, David Mao, who is leaving the Library of Congress after 11 years of distinguished service to accept a position with the Georgetown University Law Center.

Mr. Mao, who holds a law degree from Georgetown University and a library degree from Catholic University, began his tenure at the Library in 2005, serving for five years in the Congressional Research Service, before working in and later leading the Law Library. In 2015 Librarian of Congress Dr. James Billington appointed Mr. Mao to become Deputy Librarian of Congress. Later that year he succeeded Dr. Billington, serving as Acting Librarian of Congress for nearly a year until Dr. Carla Hayden was nominated, confirmed, and sworn-in as the current Librarian of Congress last year. As Deputy Librarian under Dr. Hayden, Mr. Mao oversaw the U.S. Copyright Office, CRS, Library Services, and the Law Library within the Library of Congress.

During Mr. Mao's tenure as acting Librarian of Congress and Deputy Librarian, he has distinguished himself by his steady leadership during a time of transition for the Library of Congress. Among many achievements he led efforts to improve the Library's information technology operations, including hiring a new permanent Chief Information Officer, strengthened the institution's overall operations, and created a new department focusing on national and international outreach.

In my positions as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress in previous terms, I have always been impressed by David's self-effacing and gracious manner, and his exceptional leadership of the world's premier library. He is a wonderful example of a public servant. I thank him for his service to the Library of Congress, to the U.S. Congress, and, more broadly, to the American people. He will be missed on Capitol Hill. I wish him well.

HONORING CHIEF LARRY EUGENE
PRATT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievements of Chief Larry Eugene Pratt. Chief Pratt is one of the most respected fire district chiefs and is retiring from the Kearney Fire and Rescue Protection District after 53 years of service. I join with the families, fellow

firefighters, and citizens of the Kearney community in congratulating Chief Pratt on his many years of success, contributions to the community and now his retirement.

Chief Pratt began his firefighting career as a junior firefighter in 1963 while he was still in high school. Due to lack of manpower in the mid-1960s, Chief Pratt was one of approximately a half dozen students who were dismissed from Kearney High School to respond to calls during his high school career. While Chief Pratt was still a volunteer firefighter, he began a career working for Hallmark Cards for 34 years. In 1973, Chief Pratt became the Assistant Fire Chief and a year later after completing his EMT certification he was elected Fire Chief serving from 1975 through 1990. When the Kearney Fire and Rescue Protection District was created in 1990 Chief Pratt was appointed Fire Chief. In March 2001 he was hired as a career Chief.

During Chief Pratt's tenure, the call volume increased from 209 to a projected 1700 and the career positions increased from 3 to 28. With additional personnel and equipment, the ISO classification improved from a Class 8 to a Class 4 for the entire District.

Chief Pratt truly believes in public service and commitment to keeping his community safe. Chief Pratt is a past president of the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs 1976 through 1978, past president of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri 1989 through 1992, and past president of the Missouri Association of Fire Protection Districts 2011 through 2013. Chief Pratt has been a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Missouri Valley Division of Fire Chiefs since 1978 and received his Chief Fire Officer Designation in August 2002. Chief Pratt is a charter member of St. Michael's Knights of Columbus Council and the Kearney Rotary Club, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Kearney Area Development Council and KCB Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and the rest of the Kearney community, family and firefighters in applauding Chief Larry Eugene Pratt's outstanding achievements and contributions to the community, and the State of Missouri. I wish Chief Pratt and his family the very best in years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TEXAS
PRAYER CAUCUS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Texas Prayer Caucus and the first "Call to Prayer Day" that will be held Monday, February 6, 2017 on the steps of the Texas Capitol in Austin.

State Director Debbie Terry, Chairman Scott Sanford and Vice Chairman Matt Krause have organized the event to bring the Texas Legis-

lative Prayer Caucus into a network of 30 other states in an officially registered, members-only, bipartisan, bicameral caucus for lawmakers committed to action in prayer and the protection of religious liberties.

Recognizing the role of our Creator in government and society, the Prayer Caucus "Call to Prayer Day" is an admirable demonstration of the rights outlined by our country's founding fathers in the First Amendment of our Bill of Rights ensuring the "free exercise" of religion and speech as well as "the right of the people to peaceably assemble."

I commend the Texas Prayer Caucus and their commitment to lift up our country, state and government leaders in prayer.

PRESIDENT TRUMP MUST INVESTIGATE VOTER SUPPRESSION INSTEAD OF VOTER FRAUD

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in response to the recent and unfounded claims of voter fraud made by President Trump. Throughout our nation's history, it has been tradition for a newly inaugurated president to try and establish common ground across party lines and heal divisions to ensure that our society transitions between administrations with a positive outlook. However, many of the President's actions have been contrary to this tradition, and his obsession with voter fraud is just a senseless distraction from the real issue of voter suppression in this nation.

The reality is that there is quantifiable evidence that voter fraud is so rare it never influences the outcome of any major U.S. election. Instead of investigating these baseless claims of voter fraud, our taxpayer dollars would be better spent looking into how millions of Americans were denied their constitutionally protected right to vote because of modern-day voter suppression tactics, like voter ID laws, across the country.

In my home state of Alabama, nearly 250,000 Alabamians who don't have a valid voter ID, could not vote in the 2016 election. This is unconscionable and should not be allowed to continue. The solution to the voting issue is a simple one. We can strengthen our democracy by making it easier, not harder, to vote. We should work in a bi-partisan way, as has been our history, to restore the full protections of Voting Rights Act of 1965. The narrative of voter fraud is a myth. However, voter suppression is a real and overly prevalent national issue that must finally be addressed once and for all.

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